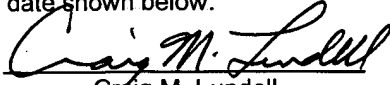


PATENT
TH2438 (US)
CML:EM

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on or before the date shown below.



Craig M. Lundell

Date: December 4, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
)
JESSE R BLACK, JIEMIN YANG, and)
JAMES L. BUECHELE)
)
Serial No. 10/761,676)
)
Filed January 21, 2004)
)
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PHENOL)
AND METHYL ETHYL KETONE)
)

Group Art Unit: 1621

Examiner: Paul A. Zucker

December 4, 2006

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action mailed October 2, 2006, Applicants respond as follows: